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General Assembly
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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 19 October 2001 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Yesterday, on Thursday, 18 October 2001, Israeli occupying forces assassinated three Palestinians in the city of Bethlehem. Mr. Ataf Ebeyat, Mr. Jamal Nawawra and Mr. Issa Ebeyat were killed instantly when their car exploded. A spokesman for the Israeli Government, Mr. Dore Gold, said that Israel does not deny nor confirm its responsibility. Also, yesterday, Israeli tanks entered and shelled the Palestinian city of El-Bireh, killing two Palestinian policemen, as well as killing a 10-year-old girl in the city of Jenin. In addition, many more Palestinian civilians suffered injuries, many severely, as a result of the shelling.

Today, Israeli occupying forces sent approximately 30 tanks and armoured personnel carriers into the neighbouring cities of Bethlehem and Beit Jala, reoccupying parts of the cities and seizing several buildings, including two hotels. This Israeli action resulting in the killing of two Palestinians in addition to the killing of a Palestinian near the village of Al-Khader. Also today, Israeli occupying forces shot and killed a Palestinian in Ramallah. Further, a fifth Palestinian was shot and killed in Gaza as he threw stones at Israeli soldiers, and a sixth, a 13-year-old Palestinian boy, was killed while playing with an Israeli tank's shell.

Israel claims that the above criminal actions, along with several hostile and belligerent statements, came in response to the assassination of an Israeli minister, Mr. Rehavam Zeevi. The Palestinian Authority condemned the assassination as a matter of principle, irrespective of the fact that Mr. Zeevi was an extremist and racist person. The Authority also indicated that it would take the necessary measures against the perpetrators. In contrast, Israel, the occupying Power, made the assassination of Palestinians an established policy, thus making the commission of such war crimes and State terrorism the responsibility of the Government. It is worth noting that prior to the assassination of Mr. Zeevi, Israeli occupying forces had assassinated three Palestinians in three consecutive days. Those forces also assassinated the leader of the Palestinian group that had claimed responsibility for the assassination of Mr. Zeevi.

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The Israeli Government has previously displayed an unwillingness to respond positively to efforts aimed at reaching an effective ceasefire and implementing Mitchell recommendations. It seems now that the Israeli Government wants to use the assassination of Mr. Zeevi to justify sweeping and escalated military actions against the Palestinian people and against the Palestinian Authority.

In so doing it appears that one of the objectives of the Israeli Government is to try to suppress the positive developments on the international level with regard to the support of the Palestinian state. Another objective is to try to deviate the coalition against international terrorism only to serve Israel's illegitimate agenda at the expense of the success of the mission before the international community.

I am writing this letter in follow-up to our previous 73 letters addressed to you regarding this grave and ongoing situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, dated from 29 September 2000 to 16 October 2001 (A/55/437-S/2000/930; A/55/450-S/2000/957; A/55/466-S/2000/971; A/55/474-S/2000/984; A/55/490-S/2000/993; A/ES-10/39-S/2000/1015; A/ES-10/40-S/2000/1025; A/ES-10/42-S/2000/1068; A/ES-10/43-S/2000/1078; A/ES-10/44-S/2000/1093; A/ES-10/45-S/2000/1104; A/ES-10/46-S/2000/1107; A/ES-10/47-S/2000/1116; A/ES-10/48-S/2000/1129; A/ES-10/49-S/2000/1154; A/ES-10/50-S/2000/1173; A/ES-10/51-S/2000/1185; A/ES-10/52-S/2000/1206; A/ES-10/53-S/2000/1247; A/ES-10/54-S/2001/7; A/ES-10/55-S/2001/33; A/ES-10/56-S/2001/50; A/ES-10/57-S/2001/101; A/ES-10/58-S/2001/131; A/ES-10/59-S/2001/156; A/ES-10/60-S/2001/175; A/ES-10/61-S/2001/189; A/ES-10/64-S/2001/209; A/ES-10/65-S/2001/226; A/ES-10/66-S/2001/239; A/ES-10/67-S/2001/255; A/ES-10/68-S/2001/284; A/ES-10/69-S/2001/295; A/ES-10/70-S/2001/304; A/ES-10/71-S/2001/314; A/ES-10/72-S/2001/332; A/ES-10/75-S/2001/352; A/ES-10/76-S/2001/372; A/ES-10/79-S/2001/418; A/ES-10/80-S/2001/432; A/ES-10/81-S/2001/447; A/ES-10/82-S/2001/463; A/ES-10/83-S/2001/471; A/ES-10/84-S/2001/479; A/ES-10/85-S/2001/486; A/ES-10/86-S/2001/496; A/ES-10/87-S/2001/504; A/ES-10/88-S/2001/508; A/ES-10/89-S/2001/544; A/ES-10/90-S/2001/586; A/ES-10/91-S/2001/605; A/ES-10/92-S/2001/629; A/ES-10/93-S/2001/657; A/ES-10/94-S/2001/669; A/ES-10/95-S/2001/686; A/ES-10/96-S/2001/697; A/ES-10/97-S/2001/708; A/ES-10/98-S/2001/717; A/ES-10/99-S/2001/742; A/ES-10/100-S/2001/754; A/ES-10/101-S/2001/783; A/ES-10/102-S/2001/785; A/ES-10/103-S/2001/798; A/ES-10/104-S/2001/812; A/ES-10/105-S/2001/814; A/ES-10/107-S/2001/821; A/ES-10/108-S/2001/826; A/ES-10/111-S/2001/880; A/ES-10/112-S/2001/918; A/ES-10/114-S/2001/928; A/ES-10/115-S/2001/932; A/ES-10/116-S/2001/941 and A/ES-10/117-S/2001/971). Since our previous letter to you, on 16 October, Israeli occupying forces have brutally killed the 12 Palestinians mentioned above, bringing the total number of Palestinian martyrs to 694. (The names of the martyrs are contained in the annex to the present letter.) In addition, the number of Palestinians injured by the fire and action of the Israeli occupying forces continues to rise.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations